

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 29, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Okuniewicz, Vice Chairman Keyser, Senators Burtenshaw, Hart, Galloway, Kohl, Rabe, and Semmelroth.

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Adams

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Okuniewicz** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:27 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Hart** moved to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2026. **Senator Kohl** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RULES REVIEW: **Chairman Okuniewicz** introduced Brendan Floyd to the podium to present the administrative rules.

DOCKET NO. 39-0260-2501 **Rules Governing License Plate Provisions (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule. Brendan Floyd**, Policy Specialist, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) reported that only two rules were reviewed. One rule addressed alcohol ignition interlock devices and was part of the zero-based regulation review, while the other addressed license plates and was opened to clarify several provisions. A negotiated rulemaking meeting was held the previous spring, and no negative feedback was received. Additionally, no comments were submitted during the 21-day public comment period after the rules were posted as proposed in October. He explained that 2026 marked the final year of the five-year zero-based regulation review initiated under the Governor's 2020 Executive Order. Over that period, 49 rule chapters were eliminated, reducing the total from 80 chapters and removing more than 34,000 words. **Mr. Floyd** emphasized that the reductions were achieved through consolidation, removal of duplicative statutory language, and clarification for both the public and departmental users, rather than arbitrary cuts. He further noted that beginning in 2026, remaining rules would move to a new eight-year review cycle established in statute.

Mr. Floyd explained that unused definitions were removed and that the term "proof of registration" was replaced with the more current term "plate on order document." He noted that the dealer and manufacturer plate section was made less prescriptive to allow for the possibility of automated numbering formats in the future, while confirming that the current numbering system would remain unchanged. He also explained that Section 150.5.04 was modified to provide clearer guidance on how and when a special license plate program could be subject to cancellation.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked whether, under the updated terminology, a trooper conducting a traffic stop would know to request a “plate on order document” instead of “proof of registration.” **Mr. Floyd** responded that the terminology had already been in effect and practice for some time and that the plate on order document functioned the same as the previous registration document. **Chairman Okuniewicz** inquired whether replacing the ubiquitous term “proof of registration,” which was widely used not only in this section of code but more broadly, could create any unintended ripple effects. **Mr. Floyd** responded that he did not anticipate any ripple effects and stated that no issues had been identified. He explained that the terminology had already been in common use, particularly since the implementation of unmanned plate issuance and the use of third-party providers by some dealers. He noted that the language had been in place for some time and that it was clear and consistent with current registration practices.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0260-2501**. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 39-0349-2501 **Rules Governing Ignition Interlock Devices (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Brendan Floyd**, Policy Specialist, ITD, explained that only a few edits were made. He explained that the most significant, though still minor, change was the removal of the specific reference to ethanol in the definition of breath concentration on page 18. This change was made because the Idaho State Police (ISP) indicated that no devices currently available could distinguish ethanol from methanol or isopropanol. He noted that the rule continued to measure alcohol and that the remaining edits were primarily cleanup.

MOTION: **Senator Burtenshaw** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 39-0349-2501**. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Melissa Price
Secretary